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Recreation



RECREATION AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT MAGAZINE

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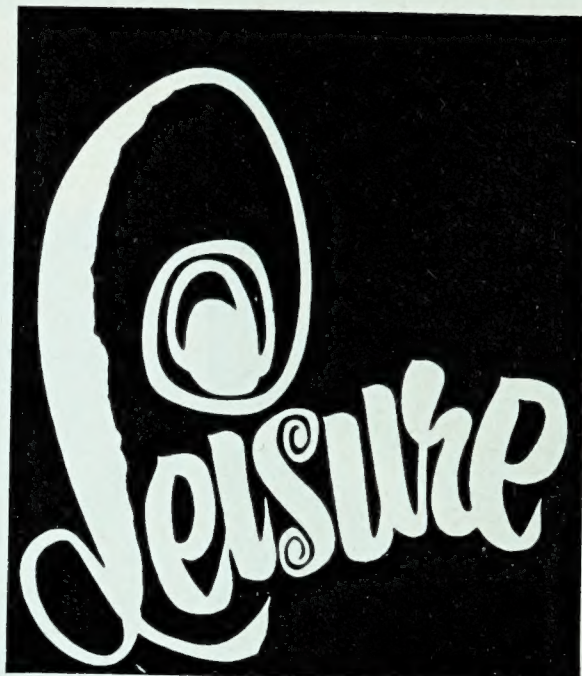
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On the whole are you satisfied with the work you do? And with the amount of leisure and free time you get to yourself? According to a recent Gallup poll of opinion in Canada and seven other countries, many more people than might have been supposed are quite ready to answer both questions affirmatively. And Canadians more so than most. In Canada, some 86 percent answered "yes" to the first question, a higher proportion than in any of the others save Switzerland (92 percent). And no less than 74 percent are apparently well satisfied with the amount of leisure available to them.

The majority in both cases is an impressively emphatic one, suggesting as it does a high degree of contentment on the part of Canadians who work for a living. Given the demands and distractions of the age in which we live, this is no small achievement."

*"Industry" Canadian Manufacturers
Association*

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Lloydminster Library Story Highlights Staff Dedication

by Mrs. Jennie C. Cooke



Last November, when this picture was taken, the Lloydminster board was composed of, from head of table clockwise, Chairman, William G. Skinner; Secretary, Joseph A. McLean, Q.C.; Treasurer, Mrs. Lionel M. Bourne; Mrs. Jennie C. Cooke; Assistant Librarian, Mrs. Lorna Sutherland; Chairman of the Book Selection Committee, Mrs. Joyce Treleaven; Mr. Phillip S. Ludwig; and Librarian, Mrs. Anne Smith.

IN NOVEMBER, 1929, the Lloydminster Board of Trade asked for representatives from various local organizations to attend a meeting for the purpose of organizing a Public Library. This was previous to the amalgamation of the Saskatchewan and Alberta sides of the town. Mr.

Gordon M. Cook chaired the meeting, at which there were delegates from the Town Council (Sask.); the Village Council (Alta.); the High School Board; the Ministerial Association; the IODE; the Kinsmen Club; the Rotary Club; and the Eweyea Club. It was decided that a Library was

much needed and would be appreciated and used by the whole community.

Members of the Eweyea Club, a group of young women whose aim was to give service to the area in some form, offered, under Miss Edith Duke's guidance, to canvass the town for members and book donations. Membership fees were set at \$1.00 per year for adults, and 50c for children. The Club was successful in registering 180 adults and 24 students. They collected 620 books, which formed the nucleus of our present collection of approximately 10,000 books.

A room on the second floor of the old Alberta Hall was sub-let from a branch of the Garbutt Business College, of Saskatoon, for \$15 per month and the instructress at the College, Miss Edith Duke, agreed to serve as Librarian for \$12.50 per month.

The first permanent Board was appointed in January, 1930, consisting of Mr. Clarence Halliday, Minister of Grace United Church; Miss Ernestine Capsey, High School Teacher; Miss Jean MacDonald, Public School Teacher; Mr. E. W. H. Howell, Garage Manager; Mr. Jamieson, who had been a bookbinder, before retirement; and a Councillor from both the Village and Town. Miss Capsey was elected Chairman, and Miss MacDonald, Secretary-Treasurer, 675 books were listed in the first Accession List. A delegation was sent to the Town Council, the Village and Town now being amalgamated, requesting aid in financing the Library project. In October, 1930, the Town made a

\$50.00 grant and offered free accommodation in a small room on the first floor of the Town Hall. This help was much appreciated and the Library was moved to this new location. By December, 1930, 750 books were on the shelves.

Miss Duke, upon her marriage to Mr. Stephen Hall, resigned as Librarian in September, 1930, and was succeeded by a Mrs. Potter, who held the position until her husband was transferred to North Battleford in May, 1931, at which time Mrs. Jennie Killen was appointed Librarian, and continued in that position for twenty-seven years.

Fees Are Raised

In 1932 membership fees were raised to \$1.25 for adults, the extra quarter to be a bonus to the Librarian, over her \$12.50 per month salary. Hours for book circulation were increased to three evenings and one afternoon per week.

Every year the Board and its Auxiliary helpers had to plan money-raising events to augment the membership fees and the yearly donations from various service clubs. There were telephone bridges, fashion shows, picture shows, catering for a tennis tournament and tag days. In 1933 the local Rotary Club made help to the Library an annual project. Great credit is due the Rotary Club, as without its substantial annual donations, the whole project would have collapsed. In 1939 the Town Council doubled its grant to \$100, but due to matters pertaining to relief and War

needs, had to revert to the original \$50.00 annual grant, for about eight years.

By 1944 it was evident that there must be some means found for acquiring money for the purchase of new books, and the Board appointed a committee to look into the possibility of procuring a Provincial Grant. There was an Act on the Saskatchewan Statutes whereby "Mechanics & Literary Institutes" were eligible for grants from the Province of dollar for dollar spent on new books annually, to a maximum of \$50. In order to qualify for this grant, thirty signatures of local Saskatchewan residents were needed to form a "Mechanics & Literary Institute". And so, the Board voted to take the necessary steps to register as such an Institute. On October 13, 1944, the assets, some 4,550 books and \$149.19 in cash was turned over to the "Mechanics & Literary Institute of Lloydminster". Thus in 1945, the funds for new books were augmented by the Provincial Grant of \$50. This, in turn, created a shelving problem, as the small room on the first floor of the Town Hall was inadequate. The Council then gave the "Institute" the free use of the second floor of the building.

Heads Drive

In 1946, Mr. A. R. Brown, Inspector of Schools, was Chairman of the Library Board and President of the Rotary Club at the same time. He headed an intensive drive for Library funds. Quoting Mr. Brown, "The Library should be a focal point from which education through books and printed materials will flow in an ever

broadening stream to create the kind of enlightened democracy in which all of us would like to share." From this Rotary Drive, the "Institute" received the substantial sum of \$628.50. The same year the Council increased its grant to \$75.

In 1947, the late Mr. V. U. Miner, Q.C., was in charge of the Rotary Drive, and another sum of more than \$600 was given to the Library. In the same year, the late Mr. Alf Matthews remembered the Library in his Will to the extent of \$250 and the Husky Oil & Refining Co. committed themselves to the amount of \$120 annually, for Library support.

This was a banner year in more than financial matters. Mr. J. A. McLean, Q.C., became a Board member in 1947, and has continued without interruption to serve, either as Chairman or Secretary of the Board right up to the present year, 1965. His initiative, foresight and guidance over a period of 18 years is largely responsible for the position the Lloydminster Public Library now holds in this community. Recognition of his ability was shown by an invitation he received in 1964 to serve as a Director on the Alberta Provincial Board, for a two year period.

More New Books

But to return to 1947; increased financial aid at this time made it possible to spend more on the purchase of new books, and the assets of the "Institute" were steadily mounting in value. While the second floor accommodation afforded ample shelving

space, conditions were not too satisfactory, as it was difficult for the Librarian to keep account of the books as the premises were open to the public, being rented to various local clubs, and other applicants, at times other than Library hours. Surveys were made of other possible locations, the basement of the Post Office being suggested as a central and adequate space. There seemed little hope of acquiring this, but Mr. McLean phoned the Mayor of Lloydminster, Dr. G. L. Cooke, who was in Ottawa at the time, to ask if he could use his influence in any way for the Library to get the use of the basement for Library housing. Dr. Cooke met with the Minister of Public Works, the Hon. Mr. Fournier, and although it was establishing a precedent, he was successful in getting permission for the basement to be used as suggested, until such time as it was needed for Post Office expansion. Therefore, in January, 1948, the books were packed and moved to this new location, with the valued assistance of the local Boy Scouts.

Prior to this move, the Board had appointed a committee to look into the matter of taking advantage of a new Library Act on the Saskatchewan statutes, whereby the "Mechanics & Literary Institute" might be replaced by a Public Library, earning a better annual grant from the Province. This necessitated dropping membership fees and depending solely on Town and Provincial Grants, and service club donations for financing. The Town Council approved a petition for the incorporation of a Public Library and, at a Board meeting on February

24, 1948, with confirmation of continuing support from the Rotary Club, the "Mechanics & Literary Institute of Lloydminster" was dissolved, and the assets and liabilities of same, turned over to the "Lloydminster Public Library". Mr. K. Bentley, successor to Mr. A. R. Brown as Inspector of Schools, was the first Chairman, Mr. J. A. McLean, Q.C., Secretary, and Mrs. Anne Kinney, Treasurer. Mr. W. G. Skinner was a Director of this first Board, and like Mr. McLean, has served faithfully without interruption up to the present time, acting as Chairman for the past four years. Mrs. Killen was appointed Librarian at a salary of \$35 per month. The Town Council passed a By-law authorizing a \$300 grant for that year, and our present Lloydminster Public Library was under way.

Paid Librarians

Increased use of the Library, partly due to its being a free service, necessitated help for the Librarian, and by 1951, \$650 per year was allotted for the Librarian and her competent assistant, Mrs. Laura A. Hunt, (\$500 and \$150 respectively).

In August, 1951, the Federal Department of Public Works notified the Board that the basement premises were now needed for Post Office expansion, with a request that they be vacated by September 30. A committee of the Board had been investigating various properties which might be adequate, in case of a required move, among which was the old Log Church. However, nothing suitable within the limited budget could be

found, and it was finally decided to move back to the second floor of the Town Hall, which the Council had again made available under more satisfactory conditions. At this time there were more than eleven hundred persons using the Library, and the book circulation for the year was slightly more than eleven thousand.

Things progressed very well over the next few years. The Town Grant had been increased to \$500, and as much as \$300 could be earned from the Saskatchewan Provincial Grant, depending on the amount spent for new books and magazines by the Board. Mrs. Killen was sent to the Library workshops held annually at Regina or Saskatoon, and a cordial relationship was maintained with Miss Mary Donaldson, Saskatchewan Provincial Librarian and Miss Marion Gilroy, Supervisor of Regional Libraries. Both Miss Donaldson and Miss Gilroy visited Lloydminster on several occasions, giving informative and enjoyable talks to various groups of citizens, as well as making helpful suggestions to the Librarian and Board. They stressed the urgency of a street level building of our own, and left with the Board blueprints of buildings to accommodate small libraries similar to ours.

New Quarters

1956 proved to be another banner year. In April, the Town Council adopted a plan to renovate the upper floor of the Town Hall for the exclusive use of the Library. Mr. Gordon Hudson, then Chairman of the Properties Committee, spent much time

with the Librarian and Board members, in an effort to make the premises both attractive and useful. Mr. Tom Steele, town engineer, was also a great help at this time. Partitions were torn out, new book racks built, new lighting installed, and reading benches for both children and adults, built. From the middle of June, until September, the Library was closed for book circulation. Besides the renovations which were being made by the Town, the stock of books were carefully sorted, discards made, and the remainder carefully catalogued. Mrs. Joe McLean organized a group of volunteers to help with the clerical work under the supervision of the Librarian and Miss Donaldda Putnam, Extension Librarian from Regina, whom Miss Donaldson had very kindly loaned to us for ten days. Cross catalogue cards were made for each division of books, e.g. Adult Fiction and Non-Fiction; Juvenile Fiction and Non-Fiction. The Adult Non-Fiction was classified according to the Dewey Decimal System, as in larger libraries. Miss Putnam's help was greatly appreciated.

For some time, in its efforts to find further sources of revenue, a committee of the Board had been examining the possibility of earning a grant from the Alberta Government, in as much as there were as many users of the Library from the Alberta side of the Town as the Saskatchewan. Dr. Fred Musaph, a local dentist, Secretary of the Board in 1956, headed this committee, and the Supervisor of Public Libraries, for Alberta, Mr. Harry Newsome, when attending a joint banquet held here for himself and

Miss Donaldson, informed the Board that the Alberta Minister had approved an annual grant to our Library up to \$500 for the purchase of new books and an additional \$50 for magazines, depending upon our own expenditures, and so, being a "Border Town" paid off, in this instance. The Town raised its Grant to \$750 that year also.

Longer Hours

When the renovations were finished, and the books all in order, the local Chamber of Commerce sponsored the official opening, the ribbon-cutting ceremony being performed by Miss Donaldson, on the afternoon of December 5, 1956, following which a banquet was held at the Prince Charles Hotel.

It was decided that the time had come for the Library to be open to borrowers five afternoons and evenings, per week. In order to manage this, a volunteer staff of women was recruited from those who had helped with the cataloguing and rearranging of books. Six women enlisted for varying afternoon and evening desk service. This service still continues, and the gratitude of the Board is evidenced, in a small way, by an annual dinner, where the helpers and their husbands meet with the Board members, and the Librarian, for a social evening and to listen to speakers on various Library problems. Mr. E. T. Wiltshire, Supervisor of Libraries for Alberta, was a guest speaker at the annual dinner quite recently. His predecessor, Mr. E. J. Holmgren, and the Co-ordinator of Cultural Activities for Alberta, Mr. Kaasa, have also

been guests over the years. The same sympathetic interest has been evidenced by these Alberta friends as has been shown by our Saskatchewan Library Associates.

In December, 1957, Mrs. Killen submitted her resignation as Librarian, as she had accepted a full time position on the Town of Lloydminster Administrative staff. Mrs. Anne Smith succeeded her, as of January, 1958, but due to ill health, was compelled to resign in June that year. Mrs. Laura Hunt was persuaded to take the position, with Mrs. Lorna Sutherland, as Assistant Librarian. However, in May, 1959, Mrs. Hunt resigned, as she was moving away from Lloydminster. Mrs. Smith was prevailed upon to take over once again, her health being considerably improved at this time, and she is still carrying on with Mrs. Sutherland as her Assistant. The Board was fortunate, indeed, to have procured so delightful and capable a person for the position of Librarian, especially as they had so little to offer in the way of remuneration.

Funds Increase

For the year 1957 and five succeeding years the annual Town Grant was \$1,000. This enabled the Board to spend enough on new books to earn the maximum Provincial Grants, and to gradually increase salaries somewhat.

Representations were made to the City Council from time to time, expressing the hope that some piece of City property, centrally located, would be set aside as a Library site, and in

the Fall of 1960, the Mayor, the late Mr. V. U. Miner, Q.C., was pleased to report that "the City had purchased Lots 13 and 14, in Block 8, Plan 86 for the purpose of erecting a Public Library thereon, when conditions permit." This was welcome news, indeed.

Over a period of some years a study was being made of having the Library financed as provided in the Library Acts of both provinces, by way of a Taxation Rate. Mr. McLean gave much time to the persuance of statistics in this regard, and representations were made to the Council. But it wasn't until 1963 that the Board was advised that the "Council has authorized a levy of .33 Mills on the 1963 Assessment for the Public Library, and it is estimated that this will yield \$3,100." The Budget for that year was set up accordingly, as was the 1964 Budget. And in 1964, the Alberta grant, instead of being dollar for dollar on the amount we spent on new books, was based on 35c per capita of the Alberta portion of Lloydminster, 1963 census, and amounted to \$1,087.80, about doubling their former grant. This was a real bonanza, and enabled the Board to allot more money for the purchase of new books, and also to make the salaries a little more commensurate with the responsibility and duties performed; as the Librarian and her helpers spend many hours outside of book circulation time, processing and mending books and keeping accurate records of memberships, circulation figures and many other necessary details.

Routines Outlined

And that brings us up to the present year, 1965. For the information of those not too familiar with the Library procedures, or the use that is being made of these services, a few facts: The names of Borrowers of Library books are re-registered every three years, the last three year period ended in December, 1963. The records indicated that there were 2,380 borrowers at that time, (better than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the population.) 16,503 books circulated in 1963. Of much significance is the fact that 50% of the borrowers that year were Public School children,—acquiring the reading habit that will never forsake them. Figures for the year just completed show that 21,432 books were circulated.

I have made no mention in the foregoing of the Saturday Morning Story Hour. This was begun in the 30's, then had to be dropped, due to cramped quarters. However, when conditions were more favorable, the Home & School Association, being concerned over the reading of comic books, sponsored a Story Hour, hoping to interest children in better reading. Mrs. Joe McLean was put in charge, and successfully handled the organization of the project. Saturday mornings, from October to April, as many as 80 youngsters would gather in the Library, and sit, starry-eyed, listening to competent story-tellers, recruited from the teaching staffs or other helpful citizens. This was carried on for about eight years, but had to be given up a few years ago when the City Office closed for all day Saturday, and it had grown to

such proportions that the space was inadequate.

Many Contribute

Over the 34 years since the initial undertaking, many people whose names have not been mentioned, contributed greatly. There was Mrs. Jim Kinney, Treasurer for many years; Mrs. Alex Miller, Secretary; Mrs. A. R. Gordon, heading the book selection committee until she moved away in 1947; Mrs. Lionel Bourne, who for the past ten years has painstakingly kept track of the finances; Mrs. Till, Sr., and Mrs. Treleaven who have spent endless hours on book selection; and the various auditors who have made no charge for their services; also donations and help from individuals,

as well as other organizations besides Rotary.

And now, of the future . . . our goal, as from the beginning . . . a Public Library Building! In a city the size of Lloydminster this is an urgent need and would add much to the prestige of the community. Many of the older citizens to whom easy access to books would be such a boon, are unable to use the present facilities because of the long flight of stairs. There are many other reasons, which our tireless Secretary, Mr. McLean, has carefully set forth in a brief which has been submitted to the City committee in charge of Centennial Projects, in the hope that a Public Library Building will be the City's commemoration of Canada's Centennial Year.

An advertisement in a Pennsylvania paper attracted a great deal of notice, especially as it was headed "Mother's Day Special". It read: "Don't Kill Your Wife. Let Our Washing Machine Do the Dirty Work."

A fish story from the Northwest Organizer ended with this startling statement: "That's a lot of fish in any language—thirty-nine pounds—and all in one piece. Still, as Fred Simmons says, 'For sheer tricks, fight and stammina give me a small-mouthed lass at sundown, anytime.'"

Quick Crafts Stifle Initiative ?

by Les Graff

Mr. Graff is Arts and Crafts Director for the Recreation and Cultural Development Branch of the Alberta Department of the Provincial Secretary.

A FEW YEARS AGO I had my first introduction to "Quick Crafts", and can recall my first attempts at trying to fathom the meaning of such an activity and its relationship to the major crafts as we know them today.

My training was that of an artist; however, craftsmen are subject to the same, or nearly similar, basic training and I felt that I was fairly familiar with the crafts and the goals of craftsmen. Since my first introduction to "Quick Crafts" I have had the opportunity to learn more about the needs of General Recreation and now feel that it is time to say what I believe about "Quick Craft" programs.

First, we should take time to explain, or define, the term "Quick Crafts" for those who are not familiar with it.

The words "Quick Craft" superficially indicate crafts that can be done quickly. As it is taught here in Alberta, it seems to mean partly this, but, from what I have observed, is also closely related to crafts which employ the use of easily obtainable or found materials. Another term which could be used is "Scrap Crafts". Many Quick Craft instructors feel that it is an introduction to major crafts and is synonymous with elementary arts and crafts.

Typical quick craft products which I have viewed are: letter holders made of melted records or popsicle sticks, glass mobiles which more closely resemble chinese wind chimes, flower-like wall decorations made of tin cans, etc. Nearly always the novel

use of the material is the most outstanding aspect of the finished end product. The novelty to which these materials are employed is the most evident aspect of the completed project, no matter whether it is a goal set by the instructor, or whether it happens to be an intrinsic part of the process itself.

For those who believe that "Quick Crafts" are crafts which can be done quickly, I would like to ask, "What is the purpose of such an activity when, due to a time limitation, the participant is robbed of full enjoyment and enrichment because of a restricted involvement"? I seriously question the value of any craft program that can be done quickly. If programs are so limited as to time that a major craft cannot be introduced, I fail to see the purpose of introducing one at all.

Material Variety

As I mentioned earlier, it seems that in the way that "Quick Crafts" are taught in this province, easily obtainable or found materials are heavily relied upon. My first thoughts in making a list of such materials would be—moss, pebbles, bark, sand, weed seeds, etc. It is interesting to note, however, that, instead, most quick craft products are made of cardboard cores from rolls of paper and string, popsicle sticks, paper plates and clothes pins. When one considers the time spent in collecting sufficient numbers of such items, especially if a great variety is sought, it is questionable as to whether or not these are easily obtainable materials. Found,

yes, but not too readily. It appears that "Quick Craft" courses have placed the emphasis on certain kinds of materials, giving courses a certain sameness, while very beautiful and pleasing natural materials have been overlooked in the mad scurry to collect discarded odds and ends. A typical "Quick Craft" workshop is nearly as expensive to equip and maintain as many other craft workshops. We cannot truthfully say that we have a cheap program and so one of the main attributes claimed by many "Quick Craft" leaders does not really exist.

It is clear that those who believe that "Quick Crafts" serves as an introduction to major crafts, or is synonymous with the term 'elementary arts and crafts', know very little about major crafts and why children participate in arts and crafts.

As an introduction to major crafts it fails on two counts. Firstly, the materials used in typical "Quick Crafts" programs are not the same as those used in connection with the major crafts. Secondly, the purpose for which the materials are intended is vastly different in both programs. Anyone participating in both programs would find them poles apart. Compare, for example, popsicle sticks, melted records and tin can materials to leather, clay, enamels and reed. There is no relationship, not only with regard to the similarity of materials or media, but also to the use of each.

Traditional craft materials allow the craftsman to manipulate line, shape, color, texture and form in rela-

tion to the laws of design, (aesthetic and functional) and composition. This is possible through a full understanding of his materials. This, of course, is only possible when one has respect for his materials, is aware of their limitations and possibilities. In other words, the material is used for that particular purpose for which it is best suited. The common approach to "Quick Crafts", as we know of it in this province, tends to overlook the limitations of materials. The methods by which these materials are employed follow no basic ruling as to design and form. Those participating in such a program are cheated of the kind of involvement from which they can best obtain full pride and satisfaction.

In Wrong Direction

I believe that "Quick Crafts", as we know them, not only fail to serve as an introduction to major crafts, but, in addition, set the participant off in the wrong direction, technically and artistically. To proceed with any of the major crafts he, or she, must first of all undo all that which has been learned to date.

As for being synonymous with elementary arts and crafts, "Quick Crafts" fail to satisfy the need or purpose for which craft activity is intended. Children participate in arts and crafts because it is fun to create and to see the result of the creative process. The creative process is not realized through techniques, but rather through aesthetic judgment. "Quick Crafts" tend to place the emphasis on technique. This is

natural since the material being manipulated was originally meant for a far different purpose, and to realize an end product all of the child's effort and concentration must be directed towards the difficult procedures. These processes are usually laced with rules and formulas. With emphasis being placed on rules and formulas, only the child's ability to imitate or conform is revealed. The materials of a Quick Craft program usually force the instructor into dictating techniques which otherwise would naturally grow out of the child's need and desire to express himself.

Produce Activity

"Quick Crafts" being used as an elementary arts and crafts program produce only one end product of worth, namely, "activity". Activity alone is a small reward or dividend for such a complicated and sometimes costly program. I am not in favor of a program that is constipated with traditional concepts when new and exciting approaches and original experimentation are excluded. However, I am equally against elementary arts and crafts programs where novelty instead of originality, technique instead of aesthetic judgment, and limited involvement, are the main aspects, especially when children and young minds are involved.

Much to my amazement I have heard of Quick Craft programs being offered to adults. Again, limited time was the reason for doing so. In some cases I have been told that it serves as an introduction to major crafts. Once more I can only re-emphasize

the non-existent relationship of materials and technical approaches. As for being an introduction for adults to major crafts, there is no connection whatsoever. I fail to see what enjoyment an adult can obtain from such a session and believe that the instructor is merely using this kind of program as "fill". Adults are capable of much more advanced techniques and should be given the credit for having abilities for much more aesthetic judgement. This is true even of those who have never participated in arts and crafts before.

Lack Understanding

I believe that one of the main drawbacks of a typical "Quick Craft" program is the absence of instruction as to the understanding of composition, form and function. If we were to analyze any field of major craft or participation we would find that the end product came about through an involvement with two-dimension composition, and/or three-dimensional form, and/or a realization of its intended function. Instruction in these areas is necessary if one is to produce aesthetically pleasing and functional

craft items and if one is to receive full benefit from his involvement, regardless of technical and artistic limitations. "Quick Crafts", as I know them, instead tend to violate all the rules in connection with these areas of study.

My views concerning "Quick Crafts" are based upon my observations of this type of programs being offered in the province of Alberta. I have attempted, with my use of general statements, to point out the harm that is being done, my concern being chiefly with children's arts and crafts programs. The limited time element is the largest factor responsible for the development of "Quick Crafts" programs and I feel that where they could have introduced fewer or lesser crafts for the time available, they have, instead, evolved something other than crafts. This "something else" should possibly be given a different name although the original intent was, I believe, "crafts". It is too bad that "Quick Crafts" has so many built-in hazards, especially since it was an attempt to overcome the problem of diminishing time.

MAYTIME



The travelling choristers often turn to as stagehands, making their own arrangements in halls and schools.

. IN ALBERTA

by K. Sillak

A COW to be milked, or the last two furrows to be turned, are punctuality hazards for our audiences, says Professor Richard S. Eaton, leader of the Maytime in Alberta choral tour. "But whether they are punctual or late, they show their love of good music by managing to attend. We cherish them!"

"Maytime in Alberta" concluded its spring tour May 15 in Champion, a small town in southern Alberta. This year's tour included performances in 11 Alberta communities.

"Maytime in Alberta" is presented annually by the University of Alberta Mixed Chorus. The chorus is conducted by Professor Eaton and sponsored by the Recreation and Cultural Development Branch of the Alberta Department of the Provincial Secretary.

Just finished its 20th year, the mixed chorus offers an extra-curricular activity for students from every faculty. The spring tour provides a climax.

Each May, 55 to 90 of the 160-member chorus take to the road, bringing their songs to the people of Alberta. Their performance is usually sponsored by a local service club, church group or home and school association. Students are billeted at homes in the communities where they sing, giving them an opportunity to meet the people off-stage.

The Joys of Billeting

"If the sponsor knows what kind of people we are and what we can do, there is no trouble with billeting", Professor Eaton remarked. "In the early stages of the tours, there were a few problems, but not any more".

While the group has no problems obtaining billets, they sometimes have other problems. Like the time one of the girls was billeted alone. She was told there would be no one at home when she got there, but to go in and make herself at home. She took a bath and freshened up. When the people arrived, she found she should have been in the house next door. Another time one of the male chorus members missed an entire performance when he locked himself in a bathroom and couldn't get out.

Professor Eaton feels the billeting arrangement is good experience for



Assembly room cum semi-dressing room are scenes of hustle, bustle and minor excitement as the choir prepares to go on stage.



The travelling is done in comfortable buses, but the warmth of early morning sun makes loading a leisurely process.

the students. "They may get anything from a single bed for two people to a royal suite with the keys to the family car. Many of the hosts go a long way out of their way to be helpful."

Is Ninth Edition

While the tour has been conducted for the past 20 years, this is only the ninth edition of Maytime in Alberta. Early in February, the chorus holds a series of concerts in Edmonton and surrounding communities. In addition they pay visits to hospitals at Christmas and for the past three years have sung for the CBC's "Parade of Choirs". The group also takes part in an annual exchange visit with the University of Saskatchewan's 'Greystone Singers'. This year an extra filming was made by the CBC when the chorus was filmed on tour at Medicine Hat.

According to Professor Eaton, the program is never slanted to a particular community. "In earlier years we received a certain stunned reaction. People were not familiar with the music. They didn't know what we were trying to do. Now people everywhere are able to hear good music daily. In fact, a good percentage of our members come from smaller communities."

Chorus members on tour this year came from 28 Alberta communities. A few were from Saskatchewan and British Columbia and one was from India.

Audience Response

"The chorus has sung in 80 or 90 communities; more than once in many of them, and we're always well received," the professor continued. "Of course, the singers react to audience enthusiasm and we do have our good

and bad nights. But if they stick with it, the students really get to know the programme. And they enjoy doing it more. I've never heard any of them say they were tired of it."

Students rehearse 3½ hours every week from mid-October to early March. Exams for some of the students last right up to the day Maytime is mobile. The first night or two of the tour is usually quite good, because it is new to the students and they haven't been singing for a while. Then, because of the layoff for exams, they lag for a night or two. However, singers are required to be in as good a physical condition as most athletes and they soon bounce back to produce their best.

Professor Eaton remarked that some of the auditoriums the chorus performs in are nothing more than gymnasiums with a stage stuck in the end of them. "Sometimes the door is right beside the stage and you can hear the ticket takers making change during the performance. Other places have the washrooms beside the stage and there will be a front row of kids sucking lollipops and running to the bathroom all the time."

"And the pianos . . .!"

"Alberta schools are marvellous, but their pianos are a disgrace. There are too many places where I've seen a million dollar school with a ten dollar piano. I sometimes think they are donated by people who don't know what to do with them when they won't hold a tuning any more. It's a disservice to the students in those communities because they need to hear good music."

Personnel Changes

Some members of the chorus are not able to go on tour because of exams. Others have to report for summer jobs immediately after their exams. A few are able to take in half the tour. Regardless of whether they sing only once or stay for the final performance, these young choristers take their music seriously.

"One town wasn't sure whether they wanted us or not", Mrs. Eaton recounted. "I remember one of the students saying, 'They may not like us now, but just wait until we're finished'. Another time a man went to sleep or, at least, appeared to be asleep. One of the girls told me she was going to sing loud enough to wake him up and keep him awake. With help she did. It was one of our better concerts. Sure they are out for the fun of the tour, but they take a very serious interest in the concerts.

"The people are usually quite good. We are entertained very well with suppers and social functions and these are always adequate and generously given."

Much Discipline

Mrs. Eaton said the students were very good at meeting deadlines. "We don't have to worry much about discipline because they are aware of their responsibilities and discipline themselves. And they have a way of disciplining each other too."

Professor Eaton added that he had never had to send anyone home because of bad conduct, but that he wouldn't hesitate to do it if necessary.

Mrs. Eaton is the university's official representative on the tour. She is affectionately known to the chorus

members as "Ma". And she fills this title by being a practical nurse for sore throats, various other ailments, as well as being a consultant for personal problems. She was trained for a boarding school matron at "Berridge House" (National Societies Training College of Domestic Subjects) in England.

Mother's Day

An indication of the group's affection for Mrs. Eaton was displayed at High River. The group normally sings every day of their tour, and this was Mother's Day. Before closing the program, the chorus sang "Happy Mother's Day" and presented her with a bouquet of flowers, "in appreciation of our travelling mother".

Maytime 1965 was the first spring tour for most of the chorus members and for many their first visit to south-

ern Alberta. They ranged in age from 17 to 27. Their programme covered a variety of music from Mozart's Coronation Mass to three nonsense songs by Matyas Seiber.

Professor Eaton has conducted the chorus ever since he joined the university's music department in 1948. "And we've enjoyed every minute of it", says Mrs. Eaton.

Commenting on his many musical activities, the professor said his chief pleasure is the spring tour. "Maytime is one of the best public relations activities the university has. It gives the students a chance to see the province and enter the homes of the people. The people have an opportunity to talk to the students and learn more about the university. I wouldn't take them on tour if they had to stay in hotels."



Just for kicks, the choir enjoys a sing-song at a locally arranged weiner roast, one of the hospitality events they enjoyed on tour.

Theatre Degree a First At University of Alberta

THE UNIVERSITY of Alberta has made theatrical history by introducing the first Canadian University drama degree program. The four year program was begun this fall. The graduates in 1968 will have the distinction of being the first students to receive such a degree from a Canadian university.

Although similar programs are fairly common at U.S. colleges (the original U.S. theatre degree was offered by Pittsburg's Carnegie Tech in 1913), this is the first professional degree program on a Canadian campus. The course does not neglect the other humanities. In the first two years, a student is required to study English, a foreign language (preferably French), Shakespearean literature, and Theatre history. This is in addition to acting, movement, speech, design and stagecraft. Students are required to concentrate in one of three areas for the last two years of the program; acting, directing or stage design and production. When he begins specialization, he must still take required courses in psychology, art and music, and aesthetics. He is also encouraged to follow a minor interest in one of the other fine arts or in an associated discipline such as English. The study of French is emphasized because of the increasing importance of the knowledge of French language and dramatic literature to the aspiring Canadian professional.

Such a complex and varied program would not be possible without drawing on the resources of other University departments. Courses in Psychology, French, English, Philosophy, Art and Music are given by the departments concerned. Each department has at least one instructor with an interest in theatre. To complement this program, the University library, in co-operation with the Drama Division, is setting up an extensive Canadian theatre collection. Called the Canadian Theatre Resource Collection, it will be available to theatre students from other centres as well.

The future looks bright to the young staff of the Drama Division (average age, 34) with their new degree program. On the Alberta campus they use three theatres for the practical work of the program: the Studio Theatre seating four hundred; the one hundred seat experimental theatre The Theatre Upstairs; and The Torches Theatre, an outdoor theatre for summer productions. With the space demands of the new program and increased enrollment, theatre facilities are rapidly becoming overcrowded and planning began this November for a new drama building which is being designed with the most advanced teaching and production facilities. Heading the various departments at Alberta are: Frank Bueckert, speech and theatre research; Tom Peacocke, acting; Robert Dietle, de-

National Craftsmen Form Cross - Canada Association

CANADIAN CRAFTSMEN achieved a coming-of-age at a conference held recently at the School of Architecture, University of Manitoba. For the first time potters, jewellers, enamellists, silversmiths, weavers, sculptors and designers sat down with representatives from university art schools, design councils, the Indian Council, Departments of Northern Affairs and of Industry and various provincial agencies concerned with the wide-spread crafts activities, to examine their mutual purposes. It was decided to join together as a national organization to be known as the Canadian Council for the Environmental Arts—Conseil Canadien Des Arts De L'Espace. The conference agreed that this name clarified the craftsman's position as a creator of unique forms in the decorative and useful arts that enrich man's living situation.

The resolutions from the conference provide the directives for the new Council's operation: liaison will be sought with painters, sculptors, architects, town planners and decorators; national, international and regional exhibitions will be promoted; recommendations made for securing jurors of discriminating judgment. A high level of excellence in design will be a major aim of the Council.

The Canadian Council for the Environmental Arts will be incorporated so that it can act as a clearing house and service bureau for any Canadian crafts organizations, artists, designers and interested persons who may wish to support it. Members will receive bulletins advising them of possible commissions, exhibition opportunities, information on literature supplies and markets. The various councillors will advise the executive, serving in a regional, liaison capacity.

sign and technical practice; with Gordon Peacock in charge, and teaching acting and directing.

Commenting on the program, Gordon Peacock said: "The day has gone when one trained for the theatre by experience alone. The so-called cultural explosion on this continent is demanding increasing numbers of personnel in all branches of the performing arts. There is a shortage now of

trained children's theatre directors, recreation drama leaders, college teachers, designers, technicians and television personnel. The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Drama is designed to give a broad sense of theatrical training and experience supported by the related arts. Graduates will be encouraged to go on to professional schools or to professional centres for specific experience.

Books in Review

Those who are contemplating a holiday by car across Canada on its trans-continental road, had best hie them to the nearest bookstore for a copy of **Edward McCourt's "The Road Across Canada"** before they start. The professor's volume is not intended as, nor does it develop into, a travel guide. Yet it's so full of pertinent comment and opinion that it could well serve as a route influencer for many.

Starting at St. John's, Newfoundland, the author ends his trip in Victoria, B.C. and along the way cheerfully makes remarks about the places he visits and the impression they make on him. Some civic supporters may well be bruised in the ego, and others delighted at Mr. McCourt's comments.

Most noteworthy about "The Road" however, are the historic notes that have obviously developed from substantial research, giving depth and meaning to the church in this town, the streets of another, and the ruins of a fort in another. If all travellers took as much interest in what they see, there would be much more pride among the Canadians in their native land.

It's a cheerful book, happily written, and done with an unostentatious skill that makes every page an inducement to the rest of the book.

The Road Across Canada, by Edward McCourt. Published by the **MacMillan Company of Canada Limited.** \$4.95.

Ancient history buffs will enjoy **Robert DeMaria's** newest, **Clodia**. Set in the period that marked the decline of Rome, the story deals with the unhealthy depravity of one family as experienced by those with whom the members associated. Good color is given the story through the author's authentic atmosphere of daily living circumstances experienced by people of the time. There is the intrigue of politics and the riotous dissipation of Roman civilization to give sparkle to the tale.

The breakdown of morals and standards, and the consequential effect on individuals as they recognize their declining qualities, can find reflection in many of today's events.

Clodia, by Robert DeMaria, and published by **MacMillan of Canada Limited.** \$6.95.

Nursery schools and publicly-supported education past high school level will soon become standard parts of the Canadian education system, says a Winnipeg principal and author of a new book on schools, parents, teachers and students.

The inclusion of nursery schools into the regular school system "awaits only money and skilled teachers; says **Sybil Shack**, nationally-known educator in her survey of Canadian education systems, **"Armed With a Primer"** published by **McClelland and Stewart Limited**, Toronto.

Miss Shack sees an urgent need for these nursery schools, particularly where both parents are away from home all day. "While it is not a substitute for parents, it can be a fine supplement," she suggests, noting that the nursery school is ideal for teaching children a second language and introducing them to folklore and music.

Pointing out that children are already being urged to stay in school as long as possible, Miss Shack predicts that free public schooling will soon be continued even to university levels.

In **"Armed With a Primer"** Miss Shack surveys the trends in education today, testifies to growing improvement in teaching standards, and examines the achievement and shortcomings of Canada's school system, as well as its future.

For education in the future she predicts greater freedom for teachers to choose from a variety of textbooks instead of having to accept a single book as the "accredited" one for a course; smaller classes in which every child can receive individual attention;

growing power for professional associations of teachers; increased use of teaching machines; television courses and programmed instruction.

A contributor to several textbooks and books on education, Miss Shack has been principal of four Winnipeg schools in the past 17 years. She has served on numerous teachers' committees and with various Winnipeg organizations and clubs.

On the 18th Brumaire in the year VIII of the French Republican calendar (November 9th, 1799), General Napoleon Bonaparte forcibly seized control of France from the government of the Directory. The story behind this coup d'état, a story of intrigues, of passion and ruthlessness, has often been obscured by the magnitude of Napoleon's later life. It is told in a new book by **D. J. Goodspeed, Bayonets At St. Cloud.**

Major Goodspeed's narrative, beginning with Napoleon's desertion of his army in Egypt, and the triumphal progress from Frejus to Paris, forms a pattern of description that reveals character as much as it explains events: in the weeks of plotting before the coup, Napoleon was concerned as much with the love-affairs of Josephine as he was with his primary ambition; and the whole venture would have failed dismally but for the daring of Napoleon's brother, Lucien. The councils of the republic were transferred to St. Cloud where the threat of levelled bayonets ended the activities of the republican council. The way was clear for the formation of Napoleon's Consulate.

Major Donald James Goodspeed is attached to the Historical Section of Army Headquarters in Ottawa. He is the author of several books on military affairs and history, and is best known for his study of the coup d'état *The Conspirators*, which was published in 1962.

Published by **The MacMillan Company of Canada Limited.**

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